



# Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

**Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member**

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## **CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON URGES THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO INVOLVE MINORITIES, WOMEN, AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES**

**April 13, 2005, Washington, DC** — In a hearing today, Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Committee, told Michael Chertoff, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that the Department must take a diverse approach to its operations – both internal and external – to ensure that minorities, women, and disadvantaged businesses are part of our nation’s homeland security strategy.

Thompson stated, **“You should always keep in mind the benefits that diversity can bring to the Department’s work. The Department must pay attention to diversity in its efforts to recruit, train and retain employees.”** Thompson also reiterated the need for minority educational institutions to be included in the Department’s science and technology research.

**“The Department must also provide opportunities for small and disadvantaged businesses to participate in major contracts. Sole source contracts should be avoided whenever possible, and large contracts should be broken up if feasible.”**

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